



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Memorandum

To: Honorable Sally Heyman, Chairperson and
Members of Intergovernmental, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Committee

From: Joe Rasco, Director

Date: July 11, 2006

Re: **2006 Preliminary Post-Session Review**

Attached for your consideration is the preliminary post-session review for the 2006 Legislative Session.

The first document is the Preliminary State Legislative Report, which discusses the major issues addressed during the 2006 Session. It also includes a list of the budget items requested by the County.

The next document is the post-session reviews of Miami-Dade County's Critical Priorities and BCC Resolutions. This compares the bills and budget issues considered during the 2006 Session against the items in the legislative package as adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

Preliminary 2006 State Legislative Report

The 2006 Regular Session ended at midnight on May 5. The Legislature passed 386 bills and resolutions during the Session, out of 2480 bills and resolutions originally filed for consideration.

According to the Florida Constitution, the Governor has fifteen days to act on a bill (to sign it into law, veto it, or allow it to become law without this signature) once it is presented to him after Session. The Governor has seven days if a bill is presented to him during Session. The Legislature usually takes several months to present all the bills to him. Joint Resolutions to amend the Florida Constitution do not go to the Governor, but instead go to the voters at the next November General Election.

Due to this delay in presenting bills to the Governor, it was not until the first week of July that the Governor finally acted on every bill that the County was tracking. The following are some of the major bills that affect the County.

UMSA MITIGATION FEE

The bills, HB 939 by Rep. Rivera and SB 1730 by Sen. Garcia, were withdrawn from further consideration early on in the Session. Furthermore, the issue was not amended on to any bills during the final weeks of the session. If this legislation had passed, it would have cost Miami-Dade County about \$11 million per year. The members of the House Local Government Council, which heard the bill, expressed concern over the issue of the County imposing a fee on newly incorporating cities. Several legislators expressed frustration that the County and affected cities (Miami Lakes, Palmetto Bay, and Doral) had not resolved the issue. Since the County and the three cities were still in some form of negotiation, the bill sponsors withdrew the bills pending resolution, but stated they would refile the bills for the 2007 Session if negotiations stalled.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND HOMESTEAD PORTABILITY

No property tax exemption or homestead portability issues were allowed to get out of Senate Ways and Means (Appropriations) Committee, due to the influence of Chairwoman Lisa Carlton. Numerous discussions were held on the subject and many bills were proposed, many of which posed significant reductions to or limitations on growth of county property tax revenue, such as unlimited portability, doubling all homestead exemptions, unlimited tax freeze, and extending Save Our Homes to all non-homestead property. The Legislature opted to follow the recommendation for a study on portability and other property tax issues. The study is described in House Bill 7109 by Brummer (SB 854 by Carlton). It includes the following provisions:

- Study the effect of Save Our Homes on the distribution of taxes among homestead property owners and between homestead and other types of property;
- Analyze the effect of Save Our Homes on affordable housing in regard to first time homestead property owners and long-term homestead property owners and by property taxes paid by non-homestead residential property owners;

- Identify the impact of Save Our Homes on each county;
- Analyze Save Our Homes in regard to the distribution of school property taxes, including the required local effort;
- Analyze the fiscal impacts of allowing the assessment under Save Our Homes to be transferred to a newly acquired home;
- Analyze the millage rates adopted by local governments compared to the rollback rate as advertised in the TRIM notices.

The Department of Revenue is directed to prepare a draft study by November 15, 2006, and to provide a final report by January 2, 2007. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research is to prepare a report summarizing the study conducted by the Department of Revenue. This final report is to be submitted by September 1, 2007. Of course, the Legislature can address some of these issues by statute prior to a final report during the 2007 Session. However, the decision to not address constitutional issues in the 2006 Session pushes voter approval of any joint resolution for property tax relief or for a homestead portability constitutional amendment to at least the general election in November 2008.

House Bill 7109 also provides that changes or additions or improvements to homesteads damaged or destroyed by a misfortune or calamity shall not increase the homestead property's assessed value when the square footage of the property as changed or improved does not exceed 110% of the square footage of the homestead before the damage. The Governor signed the bill into law on June 27; it is now Chapter No. 2006-311.

Subsequent to signing this bill, the Governor issued Executive Order 06-141, which created the Property Tax Reform Committee. This 15-member group will provide input to DOR as it conducts its required study. The committee will also provide its findings to the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission.

The Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, as required by the Florida Constitution, convenes in 2007 to examine budget and tax issues. The members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor, Senate President and House Speaker. The Commission meets every twenty years, staggered with the Constitution Revision Commission. Its recommendations can be made to the Legislature in the form of proposed legislation, and its recommendations can also be brought directly to the voters in the form of a proposed constitutional amendment.

SENIOR TAX DEFERRAL

Fortunately the senior tax deferral issue was withdrawn from Sen. Carlton's committee, and passed both chambers. Senate Bill 1268 by Sen. Margolis (HB 753 by Rep. Rivera) makes changes to Florida Statute 197.252, relating to the deferral of ad valorem property taxes. The bill is intended to provide additional property tax assistance to Florida's poor and elderly citizens. It reduces the age for qualifying from 70 years to 65. In addition, the bill increases the qualifying economic threshold for household income from \$10,000 annually, to the amount of the household income designated in the additional homestead exemption in Florida Statute 196.075. That threshold is currently approximately \$23,000. The bill also reduces the interest rate which

accrues on the tax from 9.5% to 7%. The Governor signed the senior tax deferral bill into law on May 30; it is now Chapter No. 2006-47. Significantly, this was the only property tax bill that the presiding officers allowed to proceed. (The same language also passed in the affordable housing bill, HB 1363. The Governor signed the affordable housing bill into law on May 30; it is now Chapter No. 2006-69.)

SENIOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

House Joint Resolution 353 by Rep. Lopez-Cantera (SJR 1840 by Sen. Haridopolos) proposes an amendment to the constitution which would extend the local for cities and counties to increase the senior homestead exemption for low-income seniors from \$25,000 to \$50,000 annually. Again, significantly, this was the only proposed constitutional amendment to provide some property tax relief that the presiding officers allowed to proceed. The joint resolution passed both chambers by two-thirds vote; the proposed amendment will go to the voters in the November 2006 general election.

COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES

Senate Bill 1272 by Sen. Margolis (HB 1609 by Rep. Goldstein) would have allowed Tax Collectors the ability to turn delinquent taxes on tangible personal property into personal debt of the property's owner, in addition to a lien on the property, and as a consequence civil action could be taken on collection of the debt. The bills also made changes to the amount of compensation for outside counsel and the percentage of interest rate accruing on the property. The Florida Tax Collector's Association opposed the bills, as they are currently able to use legal counsel and to add fees for such to the delinquent amounts. They had concerns regarding changing a lien on property into a debt of the property owner and whether that was constitutional. SB 1272 was withdrawn from consideration; HB 1609 died in committee.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Affordable Housing was also a main focus of the session. With home prices continuing to skyrocket, housing for Florida's workforce has become less and less accessible. The Legislature passed a \$514 million package to make it easier for people to find affordable housing. HB 1363 by Rep. M. Davis (SB 132 by Sen. Bennett) creates a \$50 million pilot project, the Community Workforce Housing Incentive Program, to give housing aid to "essential workforce" such as teachers, nurses and police officers, which allows counties to compete for workforce housing grants from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. It also provides \$190 million in hurricane housing relief, an extra \$30 million for extremely low-income persons and \$15 million for farm worker housing.

The bill includes provisions for moderate priced housing and rental units and provides money to encourage affordable rental and home ownership projects as well as increasing funding for the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. The bill focuses on high growth and high cost counties, essential service personnel and creating workforce housing. It also provides incentives to the private sector to come up with solutions for affordable housing. The bill and the state budget

leave \$507 million in the Sadowski Act Trust Fund as non-appropriated funds. Unfortunately, HB 1363 does not remove the cap on the Sadowski Act Trust Fund. The final version of HB 1363 also does not include language providing for an alternative assessment for low income rental units. The Governor signed this bill into law on June 1; it is now Chapter No. 2006-69.

HURRICANE SALES TAX HOLIDAY

House Bill 47 by Rep. Greenstein (SB 24 by Sen. Baker) provided for a Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday from May 21, 2006, through June 1, 2006. The bill specified which items may be exempt from sales tax, including: portable self-powered light source; portable self-powered radio, two-way radio, or weatherband radio; tarpaulin or other flexible waterproof sheeting; ground anchor system or tie-down kit; gas or diesel fuel tank; package of AAA-cell, AA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt, or 9-volt batteries, excluding automobile and boat batteries; cell phone battery and cell phone charger; non-electric food storage cooler; portable generator used to provide light or communications or preserve food in the event of a power outage; storm shutter device; carbon monoxide detector; blue ice; or single product consisting of two or more of the items listed. This sales tax holiday appears to be very popular among the legislators and the public, much like the school supplies sales tax holiday. The Governor signed the bill on April 27, 2006; it is now Chapter No. 2006-7.

GENERATORS AT GAS STATIONS

The Legislature was determined to pass a hurricane preparedness bill this Session. The bill includes \$147 million for various hurricane preparedness programs: \$52.8 million for emergency power at special needs shelters, \$15 million for retrofitting public hurricane shelters, \$29 million for evacuation planning, \$2.1 million for commodities warehousing, \$45 million for county emergency operations centers, and \$3.4 million for enhanced public information.

Unfortunately, every bill included language preempting local ordinances regarding generators. The Senate consolidated a number of emergency preparedness bills under CS/SB 528 in Week 1. A similar bill, HB 7121, applies to the regulation, siting, and placement of generators at motor fuel terminal facilities, wholesalers, and retail sales outlets. The bill provides requirements for motor fuel terminal facilities and gas stations, under specified circumstances, to be electrically wired for emergency generators. The bill also provides specified requirements for gasoline retailers to have generators. The bill preempts local ordinances over the regulation of generators at gas stations. Also, language was put back into the bill on the floor that may preempt other retail outlets (non-fuel, i.e., food stores) once the Department of Community Affairs regulations are put in place.

The County opposed the bill over the issue of preempting the more stringent County ordinance. Despite this opposition, the Governor signed the bill into law on June 1, the first day of the 2006 hurricane season; it is now Chapter No. 2006-71.

NURSING HOME GENERATORS

SB 298 by Sen. Margolis (HB 645 by Rep. Gelber) passed as a committee substitute ("CS") in the Senate Domestic Security Committee, its second committee reference, on March 15. The CS provides for a pilot project to include Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe, Palm Beach and Collier counties, administered by ACHA (Agency for Health Care Administration) to provide reimbursement for hook-ups for electrical generators. In the House Health & Families Council, the companion, HB 645 by Rep. Gelber, the pilot program was expanded to include several Panhandle counties. The bill passed the House 113-1 on April 28, but the Senate refused to take it up. The bill died in Messages.

SOLID WASTE

Since the end of the 2005 Session, the Senate Environment Preservation Committee staff and Senator Dockery worked extensively to update the Florida solid waste statutes and provide guidelines for storm-generated debris. Ultimately, their bill, SB 1528, failed to pass the Florida Legislature. During the last week of session, the bill became a train for amendments on issues other than solid waste. The bill protected the biomass program which was affected by the proposed changes to the definition of "construction debris." SB 1528 died in returning messages. OIA anticipates that the issue will resurface in the 2007 Session.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

OIA was directed to monitor a Growth Management glitch bill which would have been filed relating to the major growth management bill, SB 360 which passed in 2005. Although a number of glitch bills started in the process, the one successful bill encompasses more than glitch issues. HB 683 by Traviesa (SB 1020 by Sen. Bennett) provides for the following:

- Makes changes to the filing of amendments to Interlocal Agreements made among multiple counties.
- Adds language which encourages a local government that has a Coastal Management Element to adopt recreational surface water use policies that include applicable criteria for and consider such factors as natural resources, manatee protection needs, protection of working waterfronts and public access to the water, and recreation and economic demands.
- Changes the requirements for a multi-use development of regional impact to satisfy the transportation concurrency requirements.
- Adds public lodging establishments as qualifying for tax deferral for recreational and commercial waterfront properties.
- Requires permitting for the construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, abandonment or removal of dry storage facilities for ten or more vessels that is functionally associated with a boat-launching area.
- Requires a local government to establish compliance dates for a development order which includes data that reasonably reflects the time anticipated to complete the

development. The local government is directed not to issue permits for development subsequent to the build out date contained in that development order except under certain circumstances.

- Changes are made to guidelines and standards to determine the need for DRI review related to port facilities, wet storage or mooring of fewer than 50 watercrafts and dry storage of fewer than 200 watercrafts.
- Adds language relating to guidelines for residential development and the residential component of a multi-use development that demonstrates at least 15% of the dwelling units will be dedicated to workforce housing. "Affordable workforce housing" is defined.

IMPACT FEES

Senate Bill 1194 by Sen. Constantine amends various growth management statutes, and it ultimately became a vehicle for the impact fee language from SB 1196, also by Sen. Constantine. This language sets out requirements that must be in an impact fee ordinance by a county or a municipality, or by resolution of a special district. These include the following:

- The calculation of impact fees must be based on the most recent and localized data.
- Local governments need to keep separate accounts for revenues and expenditures from impact fees.
- Administrative charges must be limited to actual costs.
- Notice has to be provided 90 days before the effective date of the imposition of new impact fees.

The Governor signed the bill into law on June 14; it is now Chapter No. 2006-218.

HIGH HAZARD COASTAL AREA

House Bill 1359 by Rep. Benson (SB 2216 by Sen. Clary) relates to hazard mitigation of coastal areas impacted by hurricanes. The bill modifies Florida Statute 161.085, relating to rigid coastal armoring structures. It allows the Department of Environmental Protection to revoke the authority of a local government to install or authorize these rigid coastal armoring structures under certain circumstances. It further allows DEP or a local government to authorize sand-filled tubes or similar structures proposed as the core of a restored dune feature under certain circumstances. Local governments are required to amend their future land use map and coastal management element by July 1, 2008. The Governor signed this bill into law on June 10; it is now Chapter No. 2006-68.

ARTICLE V

The County was interested in two Article V glitch issues this legislative session. First, a cutoff date for attorney and expert witnesses expenses which are still outstanding prior to the July 1, 2004, shift of these costs to the state. The County has an estimated \$4.8 million in outstanding expenses. The County hoped to provide a cutoff date for submittal of these expenses by December 30, 2006. Second, the repeal of the September 30, 2007, expiration date for the

surcharge on non-criminal traffic infractions which was given to local governments to make up for other loss of revenue. Unfortunately, the main sponsors of prior Article V legislation, Sen. Rod Smith was not inclined to support an Article V glitch bill this year. The House Judiciary Appropriations Committee filed a committee bill on Article V (HB 7235), but the bill contained provisions that the County opposed more than the glitch issues that we sought to support.

DERELICT VESSELS/FLOATING DOCKS

House Bill 7175 by Rep. Needleman (SB 2128 by Sen. Baker) dealt primarily with the issue of derelict vessels. However, it contained a section which preempted the local governments' ability to permit floating docks. OIA worked extensively with legislative sponsors, the Florida League of Cities, the Florida Association of Counties, and DERM to propose compromise language on the floating docks. The bill also has provisions which would allow marina owners and operators to secure vessels during severe weather and to exempt them from damage by intentional accidents or negligence occurring while removing or securing the vessels. The Governor signed the bill into law on June 26; it is now Chapter No. 2006-309.

LAKE BELT

OIA was assigned to monitor the progress of the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt bill. HB 1039 by Rep. Rene Garcia (SB 1306 by Sen. Rudy Garcia) modifies the geographic boundaries of the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Area, and it revises geographic boundaries for mining areas subject to mitigation fees under Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Mitigation Plan. The House bill was amended at the State Resources Council on April 21 to include a dedicated 15 cents per ton to be used for additional water treatment plant upgrades from the County's Northwest Wellfields up to a maximum of \$112.5 million. An amendment on the floor of the Senate in the closing days of the session removed the \$112.5 million cap on the cost of design and construction of the water treatment plant upgrades. The House concurred in the amendments on the last day of Session. The Governor signed the bill into law on May 23; it is now Chapter No. 2006-13.

EMINENT DOMAIN

House Bill 1567 by Speaker-Designate Rubio makes changes to Florida's eminent domain policy. The bill restricts local governments from transferring property taken by eminent domain to a private entity. Exemptions are listed for transportation right-of-ways, for public and private utilities, for use in providing public infrastructure for incidental parts of the public property or facility for the purpose of providing goods or services to the public. An exemption is also made for property that has been held for 10 or more years by the local government and sets out specific conditions under which that property may be conveyed. The bill prohibits the taking of property to eliminate nuisance, slum or blight. Within the Community Redevelopment Act, the bill prohibits the use of eminent domain powers by community redevelopment agencies. Local governments maintain the ability to acquire property within a slum or blighted area by purchase, lease, option, gift, grant, bequest, devise or other voluntary methods of acquisition.

The bill was the result of the Select Committee to Protect Private Property Rights, chaired by Speaker-Designate Rubio. The select committee was formed in response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Kelo v. New London*, which interpreted the “public use” provision of the “takings” clause of the U.S. Constitution in a broad manner. The bill was opposed throughout the session by both the League of Cities and the Florida Association of Counties. The Governor signed the bill into law on May 11, 2006; it is now Chapter No. 2006-11.

House Joint Resolution 1569 by Speaker-Designate Rubio (SJR 2168 by Sen. Webster) is a constitutional amendment to prohibit the transfer of private property taken by eminent domain to a private entity except as provided by general law, which would be the contents of HB 1567. The joint resolution passed both chambers by two-thirds vote; the proposed amendment will go to the voters in the November 2006 general election.

311 NON-EMERGENCY CALL CENTER

The 311 telephone call center legislation, HB 661 by Rep. Arza (SB 1062 by Sen. Diaz de la Portilla) would have created a statewide 311 non-emergency telephone system grant program that would have provided citizens with a consistent, single access point to local government services, thereby reducing the volume of non-emergency calls to 911, particularly in times of disaster. Both the House and Senate Transportation and Economic Development committees would not agree to agenda the bill until the \$10 million appropriation was taken out. Every legislator we spoke to about the bill agreed this was a good program not only for Miami-Dade, but for other counties. The bills passed both chambers without a single negative vote in committee or on the floor. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed the bill on June 15, stating the 311 call center is a program for local government to fund rather than the state.

SEAPORT SECURITY AND ID APPEALS PROCESS

Senate Bill 190 by Sen. Wise provides state regulatory relief to and reduces duplicative state regulation of seaports and also includes a seaport ID appeals process. The House Domestic Security Committee introduced two proposed committee bills (“PCBs”), and then combined the issues into one bill in committee, HB 7145, which was substituted for SB 190. The Governor signed this bill into law on June 12; it is now Chapter No. 2006-193.

SFRTA \$2 RENTAL CAR SURCHARGE

Senate Bill 1350 by Sen. Sebesta (HB 301 by Rep. Quinones) is a general transportation bill which includes the local-option \$2 rental car surcharge for county transportation projects. The governor had signaled that he didn't like the \$2 rental car surcharge, as had some legislators, in addition to the Speaker's general opposition to tax increases. With the support of Orlando legislators and South Florida legislators, the \$2 rental car surcharge was amended onto HB 1315, HB 7077, and SB 1350, three omnibus transportation bills. The first two died on calendar, but the \$2 surcharge survived with the passage of SB 1350 on the last day of session. Unfortunately the Governor vetoed the bill on June 27.

The Governor also vetoed HB 1115 on June 27, which would have imposed additional statutory financial commitments on the County to the SFRTA without the corresponding dedicated funding source in the \$2 rental car surcharge. (The surcharge was in SB 1350, but not HB 1115.)

PROPERTY INSURANCE

Senate Bill 1980 by Sen. Garcia addresses Citizen's Property and Casualty Insurance, which was one of the prime focuses for both Speaker Allan Bense and President Tom Lee. This issue was resolved in the final moments of the 2006 Session with a last minute compromise being offered by the Senate. Two unusually active hurricane seasons have left Florida's insurance market grim. Additionally, a very busy hurricane season forecast for 2006 created an urgent need for property insurance to be addressed by this legislative session. State-owned Citizens, which in four years has become Florida's second largest property insurance company, has a \$1.4 billion deficit needed to pay hurricane losses. Citizens' cash deficit will be funded through premium surcharges, projected to result in a minimum 15-percent premium increase for each residential policyholder. Hurricane losses have also totally depleted the cash resources of Florida's Hurricane Catastrophe Fund. SB 1980 will substantially reform the insurance climate in the state of Florida by changing risk allocations, providing funding for homeowners to harden their homes against storms and providing incentives for insurers to stay in the Florida market.

The bill creates the Florida Comprehensive Hurricane Damage Mitigation Program within the Department of Financial Services. This program provides for 50 percent matching grants to encourage single-family (and up to four-family) site-built homes to retrofit to reduce vulnerability to hurricane damage. Eligible property must have a homestead exemption, an insured value of \$500,000 or less, and have undergone an acceptable hurricane mitigation inspection. Grants are limited to \$5,000 (for up to a \$10,000 project), with up to 100 percent grants (\$5,000) for low income homeowners. The bill specifies the types of improvements (opening protections such as shutters, and roof coverings) for which grants may be used. Matching fund grants are also made available to local governments and nonprofit entities for projects that will reduce hurricane damage to single-family, site-built residential property. The bill appropriates \$250 million of non-recurring funds from General Revenue to the Department of Financial Services for this program for Fiscal Year 06-07.

Senate Bill 1980 includes a number of measures to provide incentives for private capital to return to the Florida market and provides procedures for reforming Citizens Property Insurance so that less Floridians are served by this insurer of last resort. Finally, the bill appropriates \$715 million to alleviate the more than \$1 billion deficit currently carried by Citizens as a result of the previous two hurricane seasons. The Governor signed the bill into law on May 16; it is now Chapter No. 2006-12

MARLINS STADIUM

In the last week of Session, Sen. Garcia offered an amendment to HB 615 by Rep. Simmons to grant a sales tax rebate of \$2 million a year for 30 years for a new stadium for the Florida Marlins. SB 615 was the last bill to pass the Senate on Friday night, narrowly, by a vote of 20-16.

SB 615 moved to the House, where it was read just as time ran out. Since the House did not consider the bill, it died at midnight on the last day of session. Significantly, since 2000, the Senate has not cast a vote on the floor on this issue, while the House approved it in 2005.

FISCALLY-CONSTRAINED COUNTIES

House Bill 293 by Rep. Pickens (SB 1612 by Sen. Baker) provides for the distribution of some satellite TV tax revenue from cities and counties to fiscally constrained counties. It reduces county and city satellite TV tax revenue by diverting 30% to counties defined as fiscally constrained, which are generally smaller rural counties. For Miami-Dade County, this funding loss represents \$1.1 million per year, from a revenue stream that is growing. Cities located within Miami-Dade County will lose amounts totaling more than an additional \$1 million. The Governor signed this bill into law on June 16; it is now Chapter No. 2006-229.

BILLBOARDS

House Bill 273 by Rep. Mayfield (SB 566 by Sen. Haridopolos) establishes 350- to 500-foot view zones around billboards located on interstate and state highways, and prohibits local governments from locating or planting trees and other vegetation within such zone that may block the view zone. The bill also requires a local government to pay the fair market value of a billboard if it refuses to grant a variance for a billboard that would be blocked by a noise barrier erected by FDOT. The Florida League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties both expressed concerns about the bill, and negotiated with the Florida Outdoor Advertisers Association to mitigate the impact of the bill. Both groups declined to oppose the bill. Despite opposition by the County, the Governor signed this bill into law on June 20; it is now Chapter No. 206-249.

CABLE/VIDEO FRANCHISE

House Bill 1199 by Traviesa (similar to SB 900 by Sen. Constantine) would have prohibited counties and municipalities from negotiating terms and conditions regarding cable franchises. Authority over cable franchises would have been handled on a statewide basis, rather than by local government. The bill passed the House but not the Senate. Senator Constantine had a compromise bill, SB 900, which was friendlier to local government. It would have required local governments to develop standards for franchise agreements. After many committee workshops and hearings on this contentious issue, no cable franchise bill passed. However, OIA anticipates that this issue will resurface in the 2007 Session.

ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION SITING PREEMPTION

Senate Bill 980 by Sen. Alexander (HB 431 by Rep. Littlefield) allows electrical substations to be located in all land use categories and zoning districts, irrespective of a county's comprehensive plan. The bill also would prohibit a local government from requiring a permit or other approval for vegetation management and tree trimming within an established right-of-way for any electrical transmission or distribution line. The County closely monitored this issue, as

many concerns were addressed in the amendatory process. The Governor signed this bill into law on June 22; it is now Chapter No. 2006-255.

AGRICULTURAL ENCLAVE PREEMPTION

House Bill 1015 by Rep. Pickens (SB 1880 by Sen. Argenziano) takes away a county's ability to apply urban sprawl criteria to "agricultural enclaves," creates a new cause of action for agricultural property under the Bert J. Harris Property Rights Act, and automatically grants comprehensive plan amendment and development of regional impact approval at the local level. SB 1880 passed out of the Environmental Preservation Committee as a CS after adopting an amendment that reduced the acreage, which was carried over to HB 1015. This amendment improved the bill -- not to where the County could support it, but to where the County would not lobby for a veto. HB 1015 was substituted for SB 1880. The Governor signed the bill into law on June 20; it is now Chapter No. 2006-225.

TALLAHASSEE FLY-IN

During the fifth week of Session, ten Miami-Dade County Commissioners traveled to Tallahassee during the 2006 Fly-In, from April 4-6, to lobby the Florida Legislature. Attending the Fly-In were Chairman Martinez, Vice-Chairman Moss, and Commissioners Barreiro, Edmonson, Gimenez, Heyman, Jordan, Sosa, Souto, and Sorenson. In addition, the County Manager and dozens of commissioner and departmental staff joined the Commissioners to advocate for County issues.

Commissioners and other participants had a legislative briefing Tuesday evening to prepare them for the Wednesday visits to legislators. The briefing provided the details on the bills and budget items supported by the County. Speaker-Designate Marco Rubio spoke to the group Wednesday morning at a breakfast meeting about the political climate in the legislature this year, and his plans for the House during his tenure as Speaker.

Speaker Bense met with Chairman Martinez on a number of issues. Several Commissioners had positive discussions with the sponsors of affordable housing bills, Sen. Bennett and Rep. M. Davis. Both legislators indicated that there would be increases to caps on the Sadowski Act affordable housing trust funds. County officials encouraged them to remove the caps completely, which would generate hundreds of millions of dollars for affordable housing statewide.

The Fly-In normally accompanies the annual "Miami-Dade Days" event, which features hundreds of participants from the County, a "Mambo Kings" party and a "world's largest paella" lunch on the Capitol Courtyard. Due to the recent ban on gifts to the Legislature, which includes food and drink, the event did not take place.

APPROPRIATIONS

The Legislature passed a \$74 billion budget for FY 2006-07. This budget includes \$298 million in tax relief, \$715 million to Citizen's Property Insurance Corp., \$151 million for hurricane

preparedness, and \$436 million for affordable housing, leaving \$6.4 billion in reserves. The Governor exercised his veto power over \$448 million in line items.

Items requested by Miami-Dade County APPROVED

\$500,000	South Dade Cultural Center
\$3,200,000	Miami River channel dredging
\$1,900,000	Beach renourishment
\$25,000,000	Biscayne Bay Land Acquisition
\$3,000,000	MIA Concourse J
\$11,000,000	MIC/MIA connector
\$1,200,000	MDT bus preference lane MDX and Turnpike
\$200,000	Supportive housing for mental ill homeless
\$500,000	MetroZoo, new exhibits
\$500,000	Dade Auditorium
\$150,000	Elderly high-risk nutrition
\$12,000,000	Metrorail north corridor
\$23,000,000	Metrorail Earlington Heights/MIC
\$1,800,000	SW 344 St. Park and Ride
\$5,400,000	Port of Miami gateway/complex

Items requested by Miami-Dade County VETOED

\$8,246,000	JMH indigent care
\$550,000	Miami-Dade mosquito control
\$875,000	Crime Scene Investigation
\$250,000	Jail Diversion Pilot Project

Miami River Dredging. OIA was initially given two requests for Miami River dredging. The first was for \$2.2 million for Dredging the Federal Channel. That appropriation was fully funded at \$2.2 million. The second was the Miami River Dredging Non-Federal Channel request for \$1.8 million and which was funded at \$1 million. In March, we were asked to increase the request for state funding for dredging the river to \$18.4 million. This would make up for the anticipated delay of federal funds due to increased federal costs of Hurricane Katrina. We addressed this request with our legislative sponsors, Senator Margolis and Representative Barreiro. We also worked with a lobbyist hired by the Miami River Commission. However, this was too large a sum to be added through the CBIR process, whose deadline had already passed.

2006-2007 LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

July 17-21, 2006	Qualifying period for state candidates (noon Mon. to noon Fri.)
September 5, 2006	Primary Election (no run-off for state candidates)
November 7, 2006	General Election
November 21, 2006	Organizational Session begins (solely to select officers and adopt Rules)
March 6, 2007	Regular Session begins
May 4, 2007	Sine Die

**2006 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
CRITICAL PRIORITIES
POST-SESSION REVIEW**

The following is a review of the Critical Priorities, as adopted and amended by the Board of County Commissioners, for the 2006 Legislative Session.

Certain symbols are used to aid in understanding this review of legislation:

- **solid dots are major issues, as adopted by the BCC;**
- **circles are sub-issues, as adopted by the BCC;**
- ✓ **checkmarks are favorable outcomes for the County;**
- × **X-marks are unfavorable outcomes, and;**
- **small squares are neutral outcomes.**

COST SHIFTS/BUDGET CUTS:

- Preserve funding for important county programs, oppose any additional cost shifts from the state to the county, and any reduction in county revenue, revenue sharing or funding from the State.

- ✓ **Bill:** SJR 138 Homestead Property/Just Value
Sponsor: Sen. Haridopolos (unlimited homestead portability).
Status: Died in committee.
- ✓ **Bill:** SJR 1390 Freezing Assessment on Homestead
Sponsor: Sen. Haridopolos (freeze on homestead assessment after 10 years).
Status: Died in committee.
- ✓ **Bill:** HJR 1463 Ad Val Tax/Valuation of Property
Sponsor: Rep. Lopez-Cantera (freeze on homestead assessment after ten years).
Status: Died in committee.
- ✓ **Bill:** SB 1508 Ad valorem Property Taxes
Sponsor: Sen. Haridopolos (cap growth in ad valorem tax revenues by charter by three-fifths vote).
Status: Died on Calendar.
- ✓ **Bill:** HJR 7247 County & Municipal Expenditures
Sponsor: Rep. Brummer (authorizes Legislature to impose limitation on expenditures of counties & municipalities by general law).
Status: Died in committee.
- ✓ **Bill:** HJR 7261 Homestead Property
Sponsor: Rep. Brummer (homestead portability within same county capped at \$100,000).
Status: Died in committee.

- ✓ **Bill:** HB 7013 Governmental Agencies/Software/OGSR
Sponsor: Rep. Rivera (SB 1038 by Sen. Argenziano) (renewed county data processing software copyrights).
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-286.
- × **Bill:** HB 293 Fiscally Constrained Counties
Sponsor: Rep. Pickens (SB 1612 by Sen. Baker) (revenue sharing satellite TV tax).
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-229.

FINANCE:

- Ensure fairness among taxpayers, clarify laws governing the agricultural exemption so that the exemption does not apply to property actively being developed for a non-agricultural use.
 - **Bill:** SB 2378 Agricultural Classification
Sponsor: Sen. Geller (HB 1385 by Rep. Zapata).
Status: Died in committee; however, the chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee directed staff to conduct an interim study on the issue. This was the first committee hearing on this issue in over a decade.
- Support SB 1272 related to collection of tangible personal property taxes. (added to legislative package on April 25, 2006)
 - × **Bill:** SB 1272 Tax Collector/Duties/Property Taxes
Sponsor: Sen. Margolis. Withdrawn. (HB 1609 by Rep. Goldstein).
Status: Died in committee.

HOME RULE AND IMPACT FEES:

- Preserve local home rule, oppose any efforts to preempt local authority, including any effort to limit or eliminate local government's ability to impose impact fees on new growth to offset related costs.
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 1199 Cable Television Franchises
Sponsor: Rep. Traviesa.
Status: Passed the House but died in Messages. Compare with SB 900 Cable Services & Video Programming by Sen. Constantine. Died in committee.
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 939 Municipal Incorporation/Fees/Taxes
Sponsor: Rep. Rivera (SB 1730 by Sen. Garcia) (UMSA incorporation mitigation fee).
Status: Both bills withdrawn from further consideration.
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 1109 Title Loan Lenders
Sponsor: Rep. Smith (SB 1634 by Sen. Baker)
Status: Died in committee.

- ✓ **Bill:** SB 1608 Land Use Decisions
Sponsor: Sen. Bennett (preemption of county land use by municipality).
Status: Died on Calendar.
- ✓ **Bill:** HB 949 Municipalities/Authority Limitation
Sponsor: Rep Arza (preemption of county land use by municipality).
Status: Died in committee).
- ✓ Taxicab licenses. Amendments were filed to HB 7231, SB 1080 and SB 1350 that would have preempted our local ordinance providing for gradual transition of taxicab medallions from absentee owners to actual owner-drivers. None of these amendments were adopted.
- **Bill:** SB 1194 Growth Management
Sponsor: Sen. Constantine (implements the impact fee task force proposals) (neutral impact on County).
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-218.
- **Bill:** HB 1015 Agricultural Economic Development
Sponsor: Rep. Pickens (SB 1880 by Sen. Argenziano) (agricultural enclave) (amendments resulted in a neutral impact on County).
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-255.
- × **Bill:** HB 7121 Emergency Management
Sponsor: Rep. Adams (SB 528 by Sen. Geller) (preemption of local ordinance on generators at gas stations and retail stores).
Status: Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-71.
- × **Bill:** HB 273 Outdoor Advertising Signs
Sponsor: Rep. Mayfield (SB 566 by Sen. Haridopolos) (billboards)
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-249.

HUMAN SERVICES

- Support legislation that would allow guardian advocates that make health care decisions on a patient's behalf not be liable or subject to criminal prosecution or civil liability for such action.
 - × Language not amended onto related bills; however, discussions with the Statewide Public Guardianship Office were supportive of the issue.

MEDICAID AND MEDICAL LIABILITY:

- Support issues related to the Public Health Trust related to Medicaid reform:
 - Oppose any cost-shifting or increase of uncompensated care related to Medicaid.
 - ✓ Budget did not provide for cost-shifting or increased uncompensated care.
 - Oppose any reductions or freezes in provider reimbursements related to Medicaid.

- × Budget provided funding for Jackson Memorial Hospital (JMH) for \$8.2 million in non-recurring general revenue, with the ability to draw down federal matching funds, totaling \$20 million in funding for next year. This funding would have been used to reinstate JMH inpatient reimbursement rates, which were cut by 6% two years ago, enabling JMH to break even when caring for Medicaid patients. Line item vetoed by Governor.
- Maintain JMH's Upper Payment Limit (UPL) program.
 - ✓ The Low Income Pool program (LIP, which replaces the UPL) increased special Medicaid payments to JMH by approximately \$24 million.
- Support the University of Miami in its efforts to address medical liability related to JMH.
 - This issue was not pursued by JMH this year.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF:

- Help low- to moderate-income seniors and the disabled stay in their homes with rising property taxes:
 - ✓ **Bill:** HJR 353 Homestead Exemption Increase
Sponsor: Rep. Lopez-Cantera (SB 1840 by Sen. Haridopolos) (double homestead exemption for low income seniors).
Status: Passed both chambers; goes to voters in November 2006 general election.
 - **Bill:** HB 7109 Taxation
Sponsor: Rep. Brummer (SB 854 Sen. Carlton) (requires a study by Department of Revenue on various property tax relief proposals) (neutral impact on County).
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-311.
- Offer language freezing the assessed value of homestead properties of low-to-moderate-income senior citizens and the disabled.
 - × **Bill:** HJR 441 Homestead/Assessed Value/Age 62
Sponsor: Rep. Zapata (SB 1692 by Sen. Clary) (Senior Homestead Freeze).
Status: Died in committee.
- Expand the Tax Deferral Program, which allows seniors to delay paying property taxes until the sale of the home, by reducing the age requirement from 70 to 65 years of age and increasing the minimum household income requirement for seniors from \$12,000 between \$23,260 or \$25,000.
 - ✓ **Bill:** SB 1268 Deferral of Ad Valorem Taxes
Sponsor: Sen. Margolis (HB 753 by Rep. Rivera).
Status: Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2006-47.

- Increase the annual household limitation requirement from the current level of \$23,260 to \$25,000 to qualify for the Senior Homestead Exemption.
 - × Language not amended onto related bills.
- Provide a local option to increase the widow(er) and disability exemption on ad valorem property taxes to \$5,000.
 - × Language not amended onto related bills.
- Help seniors and the disabled trade down to smaller homes if they so desire, provide a one-time transfer of the “Save Our Homes” assessed value to smaller less expensive replacement homes.
 - Bill:** SJR 184 Homestead Property Assessments (empty nest portability)
 - Sponsor:** Sen. Saunders (HJR 417 by Rep. Llorente)
 - Status:** Died in committee. However, this proposal is one of the primary proposals to be studied as part of Property Tax Study created in HB 7109.

SECURITY/ HURRICANE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

- Improve emergency response:
 - Increase funding for the Miami-Dade County Health Department, as the lead agency for the management of Special Needs Evacuation Shelters under Florida Statutes.
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 7139 Emergency Management. Provides \$21.5 million for retrofitting special needs shelters for generators, with a 25% local match.
 - Sponsor:** Rep. Harrell
 - Status:** Died in Committee
 - Provide additional equipment and funding for increased interoperability among emergency responders.
 - × Budget provides no funding for this program.
 - Provide a redundant 911 system with a microwave component to serve as an alternative 911 system should the existing system be damaged or destroyed by a disaster.
 - × Budget provides no funding for this program.
- Protect our most vulnerable residents in an emergency:
 - Impose more significant requirements on nursing homes and Adult Living Facilities to include full facility generator power and a rigorous inspection process to ensure all emergency planning and preparedness requirements are being met.
 - × **Bill:** HB 645 Nursing Homes/Emergency Power System
 - Sponsor:** Rep. Gelber
 - Status:** Passed the House but died in Messages. SB 298 by Sen. Margolis. Died in committee.

SEAPORT:

- Provide proper security for the Dante B. Fascell Port of Miami-Dade, support increased funding for security-related requirements and oppose additional security-related mandates from the state.
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 7145 Seaport Security
Sponsor: House Domestic Security (SB 190 by Sen. Wise).
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-193.
- Properly balance security and commerce and place Florida ports on a level playing field with other ports, ensure a proper balance of state seaport security regulation and U.S. Coast Guard regulation, now that the U.S. Coast Guard has implemented federal oversight of seaport security.
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 7145 Seaport Security
Sponsor: House Domestic Security (SB 190 by Sen. Wise).
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-193.

TRANSIT:

- Ensure that transportation services are available to those who are dependent on it, restore state funding for the Medicaid non-emergency transportation-disadvantaged program on a fair and equitable basis, or find a dedicated state funding mechanism.
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 487 Transportation Disadvantaged
Sponsor: Rep. Robaina (SB 634 by Sen. Constantine)
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-61.

WORKFORCE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

- Increase housing units available for persons most at risk of homelessness, increase the percentage of housing units in multi-family rental housing projects set aside for extremely low-income persons.
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 1363 Affordable Housing
Sponsor: by Rep. M. Davis (SB 132 by Sen. Bennett) (\$30 million for Extremely Low Income).
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-69.

BILL SLOTS (not already mentioned above)

- Grant program for 311 non-emergency telephone systems. (R-1268-05)
 - × **Bill:** HB 661 Coordinated 311 Non-emergency System
Sponsor: Rep. Arza (SB 1062 by Sen. Diaz de la Portilla).
Status: Vetoed by the Governor.

- Emergency Air Rescue/motor vehicle license tax surcharge.
 - × **Bill:** HB 555 License Tax Surcharge
Sponsor: Sen. Garcia. Withdrawn. SB 1740 by Sen. Wilson.
Status: Died in committee.
- Architect/Engineering.
 - × **Bill:** SB 278 Efficiency/Conservation Contracting by Sen. Wise.
Sponsor: Sen. Wise
Status: Passed the Senate but died in Messages.

**2006 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTIONS
POST-SESSION REVIEW**

The following is a review of the Resolutions adopted by the Board of County Commissioners for the 2006 Legislative Session. The two resolutions in opposition to legislation are listed first, then the other resolutions in support of legislation, from latest to earliest. Some resolutions support issues already included in the legislative package.

Certain symbols are used to aid in understanding this review of legislation:

- **solid dots are Resolutions adopted by the BCC;**
 - ✓ **checkmarks are favorable outcomes for the County;**
 - × **X-marks are unfavorable outcomes, and;**
 - **small squares are neutral outcomes.**
- OPPOSE bills that preempt Miami-Dade County's local incorporation policy. (R-230-06)
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 939 Municipal Incorporation/Fees/Taxes
 - Sponsor:** Rep. Rivera (SB 1730 by Sen. Garcia) (UMSA mitigation fee).
 - Status:** Both bills withdrawn from further consideration.
 - OPPOSE legislation in the State of Florida and the U.S. Congress to reduce funding for safe and drug free schools. (R-1166-05)
 - × Budget provides for decreased funding (\$658,000 decrease for Miami-Dade Public Schools).
 - SUPPORT the Florida Legislature in codesignating a portion of LeJeune Road as Rafael L. Diaz-Balart Road, and urging the Governor to sign SB 1350 into law. (R-621-06)
 - × **Bill:** SB 1350 Dept. of Transportation
 - Sponsor:** Sen. Sebesta (omnibus transportation bill contains road designation).
 - Status:** Vetoed by the Governor.
 - SUPPORT legislation by the Florida Legislature to impose a three-foot clearance requirement related to motorists safely passing bicyclists. (R-571-06)
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 7079 Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles
 - Sponsor:** Rep. Evers.
 - Status:** Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-290.
 - SUPPORT the Florida Legislature to require helmets to be used on motorized scooters and all-terrain vehicles. (R-482-06)

- × **Bill:** SB 1672 All-terrain Vehicles/Safety Training
Sponsor: Sen. Garcia.
Status: Withdrawn.
 - × **Bill:** SB 1186 Requiring Helmets on Motorized Scooters
Sponsor: Sen. Rich.
Status: Died in committee.
- SUPPORT legislation by the Florida Legislature ensuring that waste tire fees are allocated to the recycling, collection and disposal of waste tires in the communities where these fees are collected. (R-464-06)
 - × **Bill:** HB 5003 Appropriations Implementing Bill (Overrides the statutory formula for FY 2006-07 and diverts water tire funding to other general revenue programs and provides small counties the bulk of remaining waste tire revenues).
Sponsor: Rep. Negron and Fiscal Council.
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-26.
- SUPPORT legislation to provide special risk retirement benefits through the Florida Retirement System to public employees working as emergency dispatchers. (R-463-06)
 - × **Bill:** HB 9 FRS/Dispatchers/911 Operators
Sponsor: Rep. Robaina (SB 1354 by Sen. Aronberg).
Status: Died in committee.
- SUPPORT legislation creating the Florida Solar Incentive Program and provide financial incentives that would encourage the installation of solar energy systems. (R-360-06)
 - ✓ **Bill:** SB 888 Energy omnibus (energy bill contains solar energy language).
Sponsor: Sen. Constantine
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-230.
- SUPPORT legislation in the Florida Legislature to amend Fla. Stat. Ch. 121, pertaining to the Florida Retirement System, to provide special risk retirement benefits to public employees working as ocean lifeguards. (R-297-06)
 - × **Bill:** HB 901 FRS/Ocean Water Rescue Lifeguards
Sponsor: Rep. Sobel (SB 1396 by Sen. Fasano).
Status: Died in committee.
- SUPPORT legislation to appropriate land acquisition funds for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. (R-296-06)
 - ✓ Budget provides \$25 million towards the purchase of Biscayne Bay coastal wetlands.

- SUPPORT legislation that will provide annual dedicated funding in the amount of \$50 million dollars to the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA). (R-295-06)
 - × **Bill:** SB 1350 Dept. of Transportation (omnibus transportation bill contains SFRTA \$2 rental car surcharge)
Sponsor: Sen. Sebesta.
Status: Vetoed by the Governor.
- SUPPORT legislation to add homelessness to existing hate crimes statutes. (R-225-06)
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 809 Homeless Persons/Assault or Battery by Rep. Taylor (HB 1147)
Sponsor: Rep. Justice; SB 1992 by Sen. Alexander; SB 2074 by Sen. Rich).
Status: Died in committee.
- SUPPORT legislation to designate certain portions of streets in Miami-Dade County as "African Caribbean Cultural Corridor," "Osun's Village," and "Reverend Samuel Achison Boulevard." (R-191-06)
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 121 Transportation Facility Designations
Sponsor: Rep. Bendross-Mindingall. (SB 254 by Sen. Dockery).
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-289.
- SUPPORT legislation to amend Fla. Stat. 316.211 to require the use of protective headgear for all operators and riders of motorcycles. (R-177-06)
 - × Language not amended onto related bills.
- SUPPORT the appropriation of an additional \$1 million for hurricane shutters for low-income elderly, targeted at condominiums, townhouses, apartments and mobile homes. (R-135-06)
 - ✓ **Bill:** SB 1980 Property and Casualty Insurance (omnibus insurance bill contains a 50/50 grant program for homestead home hardening, including shutters, and up to \$5,000 grant for low income homeowners).
Sponsor: Sen. Alexander.
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-12.
- SUPPORT legislation by the Florida Legislature to pass legislation providing for a statewide appeals process for reviewing denial of seaport identification cards. (R-86-06)
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 7145 Seaport Security
Sponsor: House Domestic Security (SB 190 by Sen. Wise).
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-193.

- SUPPORT legislation removing time limits for filing petitions for post-sentencing DNA testing, extending time periods for the preservation of physical evidence, and providing for retroactive application for post-sentencing DNA testing. (R-1366-05)
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 61 Post-sentencing Testing/DNA Evidence
Sponsor: Rep. Quinones. (SB 186 by Sen. Villalobos).
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-292.
- SUPPORT action by the Florida Legislature, the Florida Department of Transportation, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, the South Florida Water Management District and other pertinent state departments to fund and install guardrails on highways adjoining canals in heavily-traveled areas and in medians on expressways. (R-1365-05)
 - × **Bill:** HB 959 Highways & Adjacent Canal/Guardrails
Sponsor: Rep. Roberson (SB 1022 by Sen. Bullard).
Status: Vetoed by the Governor.
- SUPPORT legislation, including a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution if necessary, to provide property appraisers statewide an alternative assessment approach for multifamily affordable housing properties. (R-1364-05)
 - × **Bill:** SB 1674 Real Property Assessments
Sponsor: Sen. Garcia.
Status: Died in committee; language amended into HB 1363 and other bills in committee, but amended out of these bills late in Session.
- SUPPORT legislation in the U.S. Congress and the Florida Legislature to reinstate and fund the summer youth employment program. (R-1361-05)
 - × Budget provides no funding for this program.
- SUPPORT legislation to include funding for the purchase of generators for emergency fuel supplies in its 2006 budget; urge the Governor not to veto such funding; and urge the legislature to pass legislation requiring gasoline stations to be equipped with alternative means of power generation. (R-1304-05)
 - × **Bill:** HB 7121 Emergency Management
Sponsor: by Rep. Adams (SB 528 by Sen. Geller) (preemption of local ordinance for generators at gas stations and retail stores).
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-71.
 - × Budget provides \$5 million to retrofit fuel distributors for portable generators. Line item vetoed by the Governor.
- SUPPORT legislation by the Florida Legislature to require nursing homes and assisted living facilities to search sexual offender and sexual predator registries and require criminal background checks prior to admitting new residents or hiring employees; to require FDLE to provide certain criminal history background checks at no cost; urging the legislature to establish criteria for rejecting prospective residents due to criminal convictions. (R-1269-05)
 - × Language not amended onto related bills.

- SUPPORT legislation to enact a grant program for 311 non-emergency police and other government services telephone systems. (R-1268-05)
 - × **Bill:** HB 661 Coordinated 311 Non-emergency System
Sponsor: Rep. Arza (SB 1062 by Sen. Diaz de la Portilla) (funding removed from bills).
Status: Vetoed by the Governor.
- SUPPORT legislation to continue and expand the hurricane sales tax holiday. (R-1267-05)
 - ✓ **Bill:** HB 47 Hurricane Preparedness/Sales Tax
Sponsor: Rep. Greenstein (SB 24 by Sen. Baker).
Status: Signed by Governor; Chapter No. 2006-7.
- SUPPORT action by the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to monitor developments regarding the potential for a flu pandemic and to appropriate funding to purchase sufficient quantities of flu vaccine to protect the public in the event a pandemic occurs. (R-1213-05)
 - × Supplemental budget recommendation provided \$33.8 million for flu pandemic preparation; however, this was not included in final budget
- SUPPORT the passage of a joint resolution proposing a Constitutional Amendment providing homeowners age 55 and older or who are totally and permanently disabled a one-time transfer of the "Save Our Homes" assessed value in their present homestead properties to smaller less expensive replacement homes in the same county within one year of the sale. (R-1168-05)
 - **Bill:** HB 7109 Taxation
Sponsor: Rep. Brummer (SB 854 by Sen. Carlton) (requires a study by Department of Revenue on various property tax relief proposals; neutral impact on County).
Status: Signed by the Governor; Chapter No. 2006-311.
 - × **Bill:** SJR 184 Homestead Property Assessments
Sponsor: Sen. Saunders (HJR 417 by Rep. Llorente) (empty nest portability).
Status: Died in committee.
- SUPPORT action by the Florida Legislature, the Florida Department of Education, and the Board of Governors for the State University System of Florida to incorporate hurricane preparedness into the high school, college and university curricula and community service programs. (R-1167-05)
 - ✓ Budget provides \$1.5 million for school safety/emergency preparedness, and \$3.4 million for a public awareness campaign for hurricane preparedness.
- SUPPORT action by the Florida Legislature, Florida Attorney General, United States Congress, United States Attorney General, Florida Association of Counties and other public officials to investigate gasoline pricing and report to the citizens of Miami-Dade County, the State of Florida, and the United States on gasoline price rises. (R-945-05)
 - ✓ In 2005 both the U.S. Congress and Florida Attorney General Crist

held separate investigations into high gasoline prices. Neither investigation revealed price-fixing or collusion.

- SUPPORT authorizing the expungement of criminal records of persons arrested for protesting and committing other acts of civil disobedience during Civil Rights Era. (R-534-05)
 - × Language not amended onto related bills; however, discussions with the Attorney General's Office were supportive of the issue.
- SUPPORT legislation in the Florida Legislature to endorse the concept of voting centers for future elections. (R-533-05)
 - × Language not amended onto related bills.
- SUPPORT the passage of a constitutional amendment to grant the right to vote to former felons who have completed their sentences and who would otherwise be eligible to vote under the laws of the State of Florida. (R-522-05)
 - × **Bill:** SJR 1082 Felon's Right to Vote
Sponsor: Sen. Dawson.
Status: Died in committee.
- SUPPORT the passage of a joint resolution proposing a Constitutional Amendment freezing the tax assessed value of homestead property of low-income senior citizens. (R-419-05)
 - × **Bill:** HJR 441 Homestead/Assessed Value/Age 62
Sponsor: Rep. Zapata (SB 1692 by Sen. Clary).
Status: Died in committee.
- SUPPORT legislation to establish an ad valorem tax credit to assist homeowners with the expense incurred to retrofit existing security bars with quick release devices to allow occupants to escape from a fire and facilitate rescue attempts by firefighters. (R-416-05)
 - × Language not amended onto related bills.
- SUPPORT action by the Governor, Florida Legislature and Florida Department of Children and Families to reinstate funding for the Cuban and Haitian Refugee Crime and Victimization Initiative Program. (R-1413-04)
 - × Budget provides no funding for this program.